[54] **AUTOMATIC TAPE DISPENSER**

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[58] Field of Search 156/523, 527, 574, 579, 156/575, 526, 524, 577

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An automatic tape dispenser for dispensing and applying dry-wall tape comprises a dispenser body mounting a roll of tape and carrying a pair of feed rollers for withdrawing tape from the roll and advancing the withdrawn tape to pass loosely and freely over pressure wheels at a forward end of the dispensing body. The feed rollers are spring biased into rolling contact, tape being both withdrawn and advanced by entrainment therebetween. The pressure wheels and one of the feed rollers are formed with gear teeth around outer peripheries thereof and are constrained to rotate in unison, being directly interconnected by an intermediate gear. Rotation of the pressure wheels while tape is being applied causes withdrawing and advancing of other portions of tape from the roll independently of tension in the applied tape, the applied tape being isolated from forces required to withdraw and advance such other portions. A tape cutter blade is disposed in guides on a handle mount and is operable by thumb pressure. A tape guide supports the tape during the cutting operation to provide a shearing action. A newly cut end of tape is advanced to the pressure wheels as the previous end of tape is applied without need for manually rethreading the tape.

5 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures